REMARKS

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner do not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as such references fail to teach each and every limitation of the pending claims.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of *Fette* and *Kleider* as teaching Applicants' claimed invention. Specifically, *Fette* gives a range of values within which weights may be assigned, but does not teach constraining a sum of all weights to one. Additionally, the weights of *Fette* are each assigned to different parameters (acoustic features) and not to a same parameter as recited in Applicants' claims. Still further, *Fette* does not apply weights to previously processed frames, but rather assigns weights to different parameters within a currently processing frame.

Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly state applicants' invention and to remove brackets and bracketed elements accidentally left within the claims that where part of the marked up version. Applicants submit that the claims as amended are patentable over the prior art of record.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/24/2004

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